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Editorial Notes.

Hague Court's First Case.

It was announced more than two months ago that the governments of the United States and of Mexico had come to an agreement to refer to the Hague Court the "Pious Fund" controversy, which has been pending in one way or another since the cession of California to this country after the Mexican War. On the 21st ult. the names of the members of the Court chosen by the two governments as arbitrators in the case were given out at Washington. The United States has chosen Sir Edward Fry of England, former Chief Justice of the British Court of Appeals, and Mr. F. de Martens of Russia, the well-known writer on international law, who was president at Paris of the Venezuela boundary tribunal. Mexico has selected Signor Pagano Guarnaschelli of Italy, first president of the Court of Cassation at Rome, and Dr. A. F. de Savornin Lohman of the Netherlands, a member of the Lower House of the States-General. These four men will, according to the provisions of the Hague Convention, select a fifth member of the Hague Court, and the five will constitute the bench to adjudicate the case. They will assemble at The Hague the 1st of September. Mr. J. H. Ralston of Washington has been named as agent to represent the United States before the arbitrators, and it is expected that Señor Amelio Pardo, Mexican Minister to Belgium and the Netherlands, will act as agent for the Mexican government.

King of Italy and the Czar.

It is not possible to determine with definiteness the political significance of the visit of the King of Italy to the Czar of Russia. The crowned heads are not very open to correspondents. The fact of the friendly visit is in itself, however, of much significance. The two rulers belong each to one of the opposing alliances which have for many years dominated continental European politics. No such visit could have been made a few years ago. Its occurrence just now, immediately after the renewal of the Triple Alliance, gives assurance that this compact is no longer as stiff and exclusive as it was. Italy's relations to it are understood to be much looser than formerly, leaving her a freer hand in determining her own course. Two important subjects appear to have been discussed during the interviews of the two monarchs, the Balkan question and that of reduction of armaments. When Victor Emmanuel left Rome the Italian papers declared that the armament question would be one of the principal ones considered by the two sovereigns. They further asserted that the visit of the King to the Czar marked the introduction of a new and essentially peaceful element into European politics, and that the moment was

propitious for the discussion of disarmament. It is reported that the two rulers reached an understanding on the Balkan question, the nature of which has not yet been made public. We would give several rubles to know what they said and to what conclusion they came on the subject of reduction of armaments. But we shall have to wait. This subject is the overmastering one now in European politics, more so even than it was when the Czar issued his famous Rescript four years ago. There is no doubt that the young ruler of Italy has become the ally of the young Emperor of Russia in his aspirations and purposes on this subject. If they together have concluded that there shall be some form of reduction of armaments in the near future, we shall see something accomplished before long, for European public opinion, in nearly every country, will heartily and unitedly support them.

Brigadier-General Smith, of "howling wilderness" fame, was found guilty by the court-martial which tried him of violating the laws of war in issuing his celebrated "kill and burn" order in the Philippines. He was sentenced to be reprimanded by the President, a sentence about as near "milk-and-water" as it would have been possible to reach in the case of one who had perpetrated so gross a crime. The President approved of the findings of the court-martial, but he went further than the reprimand, and manifested his displeasure by directing General Smith to be retired from active service. We are glad that the head of the nation has gone this far in showing disapproval of the barbarous conduct of this officer. But he ought to have gone much farther. Smith's performance was a good deal more than "loose and violent talk." It was, in intent, murder, — wholesale murder. He was as guilty as he would have been if he had actually done with his own hand the killing and burning which took place under the order. Acting outside of the laws of war, he left himself not even a military cloak for his crime. But, being a military man, he has been adjudged guilty only of a deed worthy of reprimand and of dismissal from the service. He will live "retired," very much like a gentleman, on the bounty of the country whose good name he has forever smirched. If he had occupied any other rank in the nation, he would probably have been put behind bars for the rest of his life. If President Roosevelt had dealt with the case on its actual merits, he would have dismissed General Smith from the army, if he had not gone farther and recommended that his case be dealt with by the courts. There is, it is no extravagance to assert, no other system approved by people and state which so covers up iniquity and obliterates all distinctions between

right and wrong as the war system. It seems that it has to do this in order to keep itself in countenance and honor.

Portentous Figures. We have frequently given figures to show what an increasing hold militarism is gaining on this country, while the people sleep, seemingly entirely unconscious of the future peril which designing men are quietly and steadily creating for the nation. Here are some statements given by the San Francisco weekly *Star*, which are far from reassuring to those who desire our country to be among the first in all that promotes the real welfare of the people and the world:

"Most Americans think of militarism as something peculiar to European countries. Yet militarism was the subject-matter of nearly three-fourths of the bills introduced in the House of Representatives during the session just closed. Consider the figures: The total number of bills introduced was 15,330. The Committee on War Claims had 2,488 of them, the Committee on Invalid Pensions, 6,509; and the Committee on Military Affairs, 2,338. That is to say, 11,335 bills had to do with war and results of war, while less than 4,000 bills had to do with the business, industry and civil affairs of the country. So far as the thoughts and activities of the lawmakers go, it is evident that the government has become far too exclusively a mere machine for making war and granting fat contracts. When we turn from bills proposed to the appropriations actually made, the figures are equally startling. For war and the appurtenances of war, the Congress which has just adjourned appropriated \$400,000,000, or twice the annual cost of the entire common school system of the country. These are portentous figures, and should make men who think 'there is no danger' turn their efforts to making the danger less than it plainly is."

Cost of the Philippine War.

In answer to the resolution of April 17 Secretary Root sent to the United States Senate a statement purporting to give the total cost of the Philippine war from the time the peace treaty with Spain was ratified in 1898 to the end of April this year, four years. The total is given as \$170,326,586. The Secretary suggested that this amount is really too large, as it includes the cost of supplies still on hand in the Philippines for use, and also the pay for maintenance of troops whom it would have been necessary to support if they had not been in the Philippines. Nobody will doubt that the Secretary's statement is correct so far as the mere matter of cost of supplies, transportation and military operations in the islands is concerned. But granting this, his presentation of the case was nevertheless as good an example of special pleading as could well be found. He meant to have the country believe that this sum actually represents the total expense which has come to the country through the adoption of the

policy of which the campaign in the Philippines is only the most striking expression. His reasoning assumes that the standing army would have been increased to its present size if there had been no Philippine war. For this he has no just grounds. It assumes also that a lot of expenses of other kinds occasioned by the policy, but which do not go into the Philippine bookkeeping, would have been incurred under normal conditions. The annual per capita cost of government administration has almost doubled in the last four years as compared with the previous twenty years. There is little reason to doubt that at least twice the sum mentioned by the Secretary of War is to be charged to the Philippine enterprise. Some statisticians think it borders close on to five hundred millions.

Chile and Argentina.

The Peace Association of South America, *La Asociacion Americana La Paz*, which has members in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Bolivia, and which used its utmost influence in every possible direction to prevent hostilities between Argentina and Chile and to secure a pacific settlement of their troubles, is greatly rejoiced over the treaty of arbitration and of naval limitation which has been made between them. In a letter to the President of Chile, published in *La Lei* of Santiago, which the President controls, the Secretary of the Association, M. Zuñiga Medina, congratulates that government that through its wisdom and earnestness, with the coöperation of Argentina, the "alarming disturbances" have been "buried in a deep grave." He says that it is difficult in the light of reason to explain the threatening aspect which the situation assumed. The situation was disturbing their relations with the European nations, to which they were bound by many commercial and other ties. Not only the people of Argentina and Chile, therefore, are rejoiced at the happy solution of the difficulties, but so are also the people of the Old World, especially those who have for years been engaged in the peace propaganda. We assure Señor Medina that the multitudes of friends of peace in the United States, where the peace movement originated, are as delighted over the happy outcome as any South Americans or Europeans can be. We hope that the "deep grave" in which the disturbances have been buried may never give up its dead, and that the restriction of armaments on which the two countries have agreed may prove to be not only the pledge of perpetual peace for them, but that it may provoke, as we said in our last issue, a movement for reduction of armaments among the great armed powers of the world. Señor Medina has a right to feel that Chile and Argentina have won for themselves "imperishable glory" by this treaty of peace between them, which in certain re-

spects goes beyond any other similar treaty, general or particular, which has yet been drawn. We give on another page the Convention on Naval Armaments.

Greenacre.

The summer school or conference at Greenacre, Eliot, Maine, is giving its attention this year very largely to the subject of peace in its various aspects. The conferences began on July 3, and will continue until the last day of August. During the first week addresses on subjects related to peace were given by Edwin D. Mead of Boston, on "Dante's Dream of Universal Empire" and "The Higher Patriotism," and by E. P. Powell of Clinton, N. Y., on the "Progress of Peace throughout the Ages." The second week Mr. Mead spoke on "Immanuel Kant's 'Eternal Peace,'" Mrs. Mead on "Industrial Peace," Benjamin F. Trueblood on "The Federation of the World," and Raymond L. Bridgman of Boston on "A World Legislature." The third week Mr. Mead discussed "The Peace Conference at The Hague," and Dr. Fillmore Moore of New York "Industrial Conciliation." The fourth week Mr. Hydesaduro Ohashi spoke on "The Universal Republic," and Edward Atkinson of Boston on "The Economic Aspect of Peace." After some of these addresses there were discussions in which members of the audience took part. During August other peace addresses are to be given. Professor J. C. Bracq of Vassar College is to speak on "The Solidarity of Humanity," Mrs. May Wright Sewall of Indianapolis on "The New Internationalism," Frank B. Sanborn of Concord, Mass., on "Peace Principles in Political Life," Hezekiah Butterworth of Boston on "The World Movement toward Peace," and on the closing day, August 31, the subject for discussion, in which a number of persons will take part, will be "The Love of Man for Man the Foundation of Peace."

World-Control of Trusts.

The proposal of Russia, through her finance minister, Mr. de Witte, that an international conference be called to deal with trusts, is significant in more than one way. It is understood that the suggestion has been sent not only to the British government, but to all the powers whose representatives signed the Brussels sugar convention some months ago. This action of the Russian government indicates two things: First, it is a recognition of the fact, now so conspicuous, that business in general is more and more passing over national boundaries and becoming international, or, in other words, is increasingly tending to denationalization and to become universal. It indicates, furthermore, the enlarging appreciation, on the part of the nations, of the necessity of coöperation among them in the direction and management of an

increasingly large circle of affairs, and their growing willingness to consult one another and to combine in their treatment of these. It is not our intention here to discuss the question of the purpose which Russia may have had in view in suggesting a conference of the powers to deal with trusts. It is at least questionable whether such a conference, if gathered, would be able to deal in any effective, rational way with trusts in their international aspects, so long as the separate governments are so much at sea as to what shall be done, if anything, with them at home. It is possible, to be sure, that an exhaustive examination of the nature and tendencies of these great industrial combinations by an international gathering of competent men might throw much light on the question of the proper method of dealing with them by the separate governments. Be this so or not, the assembling of such a conference would be another important move in preparing the way for the political federation and unification of the world, to which so many signs are now pointing and toward which so many preliminary steps have, perhaps unconsciously, but none the less really, already been taken. We shall see developments along this line in the next twenty-five or thirty years which will surprise people even more than the setting up of the Hague Court has done.

Minister Wu Ting Fang.

General regret will be felt in this country that the Chinese Minister, Wu Ting Fang, has been recalled from his position in Washington. He has won the friendship of nearly all intelligent people in this country. He is a man of great ability, of large culture and unusual tact. He is really a diplomat of the first order. In the Boxer crisis he was the first to gain knowledge of the safety of the foreign legations, and he coöperated persistently and sincerely with our government in the effort to save and relieve them. His influence at Washington probably did as much as anything else to prevent the adoption by the powers of a policy which would have led to the breaking up of the Chinese Empire. Mr. Wu is an accomplished student of international law, and holds ideas of international right and justice of the highest and truest kind. He has freely criticised this country for its false position in the matter of the exclusion of Chinamen, but he has done this in a courteous and tactful way which has not given offense. From one point of view, it is fortunate that he is going back to China. His large knowledge of the Western world and his liberal and progressive ideas will make him most influential at home in the development of his country along modern lines. It has been thought that his progressive character has brought him into disfavor with the Chinese Court. But the position which he has been asked to

take at home is not likely to have been given to a man under suspicion. He is known to his people to be thoroughly loyal to his country, and therefore he is quite sure to retain their confidence and to be able to lead them forward in their development as perhaps no other statesman of his country could do. His influence in the international field is sure to be large, and we doubt not also healthful and pacific, in the years just before us.

Co-operative Societies.

The growing disposition of our time among men to put into practice the altruistic ideals of brotherhood and social solidarity is manifested in a remarkable way in the development of coöperative societies during the last quarter of a century. The current *Arena* contains, among other valuable things, the following most instructive information:

There are in England (including Scotland and Wales) at the present time 1,648 coöperative societies. The volume of business which they carried on last year amounted to over \$400,000,000, and the profits distributed in cash dividends to members was more than \$45,000,000. These societies own and control the two largest wholesale houses in the world, about 3,000 retail stores, and a great number of factories, some of which are among the largest in Great Britain. They own and operate eight ocean steamers. They have reduced the cost of passing goods from the producer to the consumer from 33½ per cent. to 6½ per cent. They also carry on a vast system of banking, building and fire, life and accident insurance; and in addition to the commercial labors and pursuits, they are doing a splendid work in the way of education, while providing various means for the recreation and social enjoyment of young and old among their vast constituency. Ireland has 232 coöperative dairy or creamery societies, 101 agricultural societies, 52 coöperative banks, and 39 poultry and miscellaneous societies, with a total membership of 40,000. In Switzerland there are 3400 societies, of which 370 are distributive societies, doing an annual business of \$11,500,000, and embracing a membership of over 124,000 persons, representing 500,000 coöperators, one-sixth of the entire population. In Germany there are about 17,000 coöperative societies, with a membership of 2,000,000. In Belgium there are 1000 societies, with 24,519 members. Austria has 5,092 societies, Hungary about 1500, France over 4,000, Italy about the same number, Holland over 2000, Denmark just under 2,000, and there are a number of societies in Spain and Sweden.

It will be a great encouragement to any friend of coöperation to read the interesting details of the work of these societies given in the *Arena*.

Pennies Wasted. A Boston subscriber, who does not give his name, has sent us a postal card gently upbraiding us for wasting pennies by putting a two-cent stamp on the copies of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* mailed to subscribers in the city of Boston. He says that the paper weighs under four ounces and that therefore one cent is sufficient. We are very sorry that he thinks us extravagant. We assure him that we, and the mailing company which does our mailing, have looked up every phase of the postal laws, in order to reduce our postal expenses to the lowest possible minimum. We are sorry that Uncle Sam does not agree with him, as he ought to do. If "Subscriber" will look up the postal laws he will find that the *publishers* of a paper like ours must pay two cents postage on all copies weighing over two ounces sent to subscribers in the city where the paper is published. Others than the publishers can send the same papers at the rate of one cent for four ounces or under. This is one of the curious absurdities and injustices of the present postal laws, which repeated efforts have been made to have changed, but so far without avail. It costs us twelve times as much to mail copies of our paper in Boston as it does in Chicago, or Denver, or San Francisco, or Honolulu. To every other city in the nation except Boston the paper goes for one cent a pound. "Subscriber" will do us a great favor if he will go to Washington and get us relieved from the necessity of wasting these pennies. We should be glad to use them in the enlargement of our peace work.

Brevities.

. . . The governments of Italy and Guatemala have chosen the president of France, Mr. Loubet, as arbitrator in the controversy between them touching the rights of Italian subjects in the Central American republic. Mr. Loubet has consented to act.

. . . The Society of Friends in Great Britain has appointed a committee of eighty-five to visit all the congregations of the Society and endeavor to impress upon the members the extent of their responsibilities as followers of the Prince of Peace. They have taken a most wise course, to prepare for peace in time of peace, instead of waiting to try to do something when a war excitement is coming on.

. . . Governor Taft has finished his mission at Rome, and the dispatches give assurance that an arrangement has been reached which will in due time lead to an amicable settlement of the friar question in the Philippines.

. . . Warships are not only great death dealers, but often also consummate death traps. The Chinese cruiser, *Hai Chee*, was destroyed by an explosion of her magazine on the 21st of June, and of her crew of two hundred and fifty men only two escaped. Three small boats lying alongside were also destroyed with their occupants.